

REMARKS

The present amendment amends claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11, cancels claims 7 and adds new claims 14-16. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 5, 6, 8-11 and 14-16.

Claims 5-11 stand objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in the Office Action. Particularly the Examiner objects to claim 5 as not including the word "comprising". Amendments were made to claim 5 to add the word "comprising" at the appropriate location. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nagatomo (U.S. Patent No. 6,717,522); claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagatomo in view of Sheldon (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,989); and claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagatomo in view of Fujioka (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,982). As indicated above, claim 7 was canceled therefore the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 7 as being unpatentable over Nagatomo in view of Sheldon is rendered moot. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to the remaining claims 5, 6 and 8-11, the above-described rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are traversed for the following reasons. The features as now more clearly recited in claims 5, 6 and 8-11 are not taught or suggested by Nagatomo or Fujioka whether taken individually or

taken in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to the claims so as to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Particularly, amendments were made to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a service providing system having a ticket examiner and an information processing apparatus interconnected with the ticket examiner through a network for providing a service and compensation for a price. According to the present invention, the ticket examiner isolates a service providing location from a service free location. The ticket examiner includes communication means provided on a surface of the ticket examiner and based on a non-contact, electromagnetic contact scheme, conduction or an electric signal conducts communication with a user medium and means for collecting information and means for settling a service provided through the communication means based on information stored in the user medium communicated through the communication means.

The information processing apparatus includes means connected to a financial institution through the network for decrypting information on the settling means to a plain text, evaluating validity of the information on the settling means, making a settlement based on the evaluation through the financial institution and the communication means and selecting a service to be provided and preparing for providing the service after settlement.

The ticket examiner further includes person sensing means equipped therein, means for recognizing based on a person sensed by the person sensing means and communication medium sensed by the communication means that a user who should receive a service exists at the ticket examiner and means for issuing a ticket for receipt of a service on a side of a service providing location.

The above-described features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record particularly Nagatomo and Fujioka whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Nagatomo discloses a message providing apparatus such as that illustrated in Fig. 6 thereof to which a non-volatile semiconductor memory device which stores message data containing at least one of a still image, moving image, character or graphic, and sound is able to be detachably mounted. As taught in Nagatomo, the message providing apparatus includes a sound output device which produces sound read from the semiconductor memory device and a display device which displays images, character or graphic, read from the semiconductor memory device. The message providing apparatus further includes an identification memory which stores hardware identification data of the apparatus, a collator which detects whether a software identification read from the semiconductor memory device corresponds to the hardware identification read from the identification memory. The sound output device reproduces the sound included in the message read from the semiconductor memory device when the collator detects that the software identification corresponds

to the hardware identification and the display device displays the still image, moving image, character and graphic included in the message read from the semiconductor message device when the collator detects that the software identification corresponds to the hardware identification.

The above-described teachings of Nagatomo do not anticipate nor render obvious the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Particularly, Nagatomo fails to teach or suggest a service providing system including a ticket examiner and an information processing apparatus interconnected with the ticket examiner through a network for providing a service in compensation for a price, as recited in the claims. There is no teaching or suggestion in Nagatomo that that the message providing apparatus includes a ticket examiner and an information processing apparatus interconnected to each other through a network as recited in the claims.

Further, Nagatomo fails to teach or suggest that the ticket examiner isolates a service providing location and a service free location and includes communication means mounted on the surface of the ticket examiner and means for collecting information and means for settling a service provided through the communication means based on information stored in a user medium communicated through the communication means, as recited in the claims.

Nagatomo simply provides an apparatus which can be attached to various apparatus/structures so as to provide a visual display of a message concerning the

apparatus/structure to which it is attached. Attention is directed to Figs. 2-4 of Nagatomo. At no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Nagatomo that the message providing apparatus taught therein isolates a service providing location from a service free location and that the apparatus includes communication means, means for collecting information and means for settling a service provided through the communication means as recited in the claims.

Still further, Nagatomo fails to teach or suggest that the information processing apparatus includes means connected to a financial institution through the network for decrypting information on the settling means to a plain text, evaluating validity of the information on the settling means, making a settlement based on the evaluation through the financial institution and the communication means and selecting a service to be provided and preparing for providing the service after settlement, as recited in the claims.

At no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Nagatomo that the message providing apparatus is connected to a financial institution through a network and performs a settlement operation with the financial institution as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

Still further yet, Nagatomo fails to teach or suggest that the ticket examiner further includes person sensing means equipped therein, means for recognizing based on a person sensed by the person sensing means and said user medium sensed by the communication means that a user who should receive a service exists

at the ticket examiner and means for issuing a ticket for receipt of a service on a side of a service providing location, as recited in the claims.

Thus, as is quite clear from the above, the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by Nagatomo. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 5, 6 and 11 as being anticipated by Nagatomo is respectfully requested.

Since claims 8-10 each depend directly or indirectly on claim 5, the same arguments presented above with respect to claim 5 and Nagatomo apply as well to the use of Nagatomo to reject claims 8-10.

The above-described deficiencies of Nagatomo are not supplied by Fujioka. Therefore, combining the teachings of Nagatomo and Fujioka in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Fujioka only discloses the use of a narrow coverage antenna. There is no teaching or suggestion in Fujioka of a long distance range coverage antenna which is used for performing the settling function in the present invention as recited in the claims.

Thus, since Fujioka does not supply any of the above described deficiencies of Nagatomo and appears not to provide the teaching to which the Examiner relies, the combination of Nagatomo and Fujioka still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Therefore,

reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 8-10 as being unpatentable over Nagatomo in view of Fujioka is respectfully requested.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 14-16 which depend directly or indirectly from claim 5. Thus, the same arguments presented above with respect to claim 5 apply as well to new claims 14-16. Therefore, Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as recited in new claims 14-16 are not taught or suggested by Nagatomo whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references relied upon for the rejection of claims 5-11.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 5, 6, 8-11 and 14-16 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 5, 6, 8-11 and 14-16 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the

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deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No.

01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.40214X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl I. Brundidge', is written over a horizontal line.

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